



FEMA

Disaster Information

Individuals affected by the severe storms and flooding are urged to begin cleaning up their homes and personal property as soon as possible after it is safe to return to their homes. Officials from the City of Moorhead and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) emphasize that it is not necessary to wait for an inspection before beginning this process.

Individuals affected by the disaster need to keep their health and safety as the number one priority. In the process of cleaning up, residents can document the losses and damages by taking photos, or simply making a list of the major damages. Also, residents are urged to keep receipts for all purchases and services used in order to document their document expenses and repair costs.

Every precaution concerning possible electrical and natural or propane gas problems and structural safety should be considered before going into a damaged home.

- If you were among those who evacuated, only return home when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Other people are in a hurry to get home just as you are. Drive safely and take your time. As you get closer to the damaged areas, watch for downed power lines and report them immediately to the electric company, police or fire departments.
- Enter your home with caution.
 - If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noises, open windows and leave immediately. Turn off the gas at the main valve, and call your gas utility company.
 - Check for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or frayed wires, make sure the electricity is turned off at the main circuit box.
 - If your water pipes are damaged or if the water system has been damaged, avoid the water from the tap and only drink bottled water.
- Open windows to begin to ventilate and dry your home. Check refrigerated foods for spoilage, and discard any foods you're unsure of.
- Take pictures of damages to your home and its contents, and call your insurance agent to report damages. Remove wet contents – carpet, furniture and building materials – to the outside for pick up to prevent mold or further damages.

Before considering permanent repairs of flood-damaged property and new construction, residents are urged to consult local building officials to obtain the necessary permits. Obtaining building permits is especially important for homes or businesses located within an identified floodplain.

For more tips on cleaning up and keeping your family safe, visit www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/flood/, www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/ or www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/.